Air Force forms new Information Technology organization

SAF/NWI-CIO

Networks and Warfighting Integration - Chief Information Officer

New provisional office composed of elements from AF/XI, IL and CIO

By Mr. John Stafford
AF/XI DCS Action Group

PENTAGON — The formation of a new Information Technology organization, known temporarily as Networks and Warfighting Integration – Chief Information Officer, or SAF/NWI-CIO, was announced Dec. 7 by Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche.

He made the announcement during the 3rd annual Air Force Information Technology Day here, and a team of senior leaders is developing an implementation plan for the organization's stand-up slated for this spring.

SAF/NWI-CIO is composed of elements from the Deputy Chief of Staff, Warfighting Integration, the Air Force Chief Information Officer, and the Deputy Chief of Staff, Installations and Logistics. This provisional organization will be led by Lt. Gen. Tom Hobbins, AF/XI, who is coordinating the plan with Mr. John Gilligan, AF-CIO, and Brig. Gen. Ronnie Hawkins, Director of Communications Operations.

Also, senior leaders from across the affected organizations are setting objectives and milestones for the plan.

When it is formally stood-up, an Air Force lieutenant general will lead the new organization with an SES civilian serving as the deputy.

"Network operations have evolved to the point where business, warfighting, and support operations rely on common network services, data and information domains," said General Hobbins. **"We were successful as separate organizations in producing a net-centric environment; now it's time to create an organization that's optimized with those successes to do net-centric operations across all domains with a strong focus on the warfighter."**

He emphasized that this reorganization is not a retrenchment to the old AF/SC, which had a much smaller area of responsibility. Instead, it's the creation of a new organization to further harness the capabilities presented by the three contributing organizations.

A parallel example would be when the Air Force created the Air Force Network Operations and Security Center. NOSCs already existed at each major command, but the creation of an overarching NOSC under U.S. Strategic Command allowed worldwide management of the DoD Global Information Grid with unified policies and standards. The result was a synergistic gain in capability. General Hobbins said he views the SAF/NWI-CIO merger as an opportunity to create a similar synergy. The new organization will:

▸▸ **align common work efforts and ultimately support the Air Force's new warfighting headquarters construct;**

▸▸ **provide clear governance and focus on Airmen's needs at all levels—commanders, warfighters, and support personnel;**

▸▸ **provide for day-to-day oversight of communications and information operations, including security; and**

▸▸ **effectively and efficiently apply Information Technology resources to ensure the Air Force continues the path successfully forged by the AF-CIO in meeting the requirements of the Clinger-Cohen Act and other statutory requirements.**

General Hobbins added that the new organization "will become the single advocate for 'fused capabilities' to achieve synergy among resources, technology, the workforce, and governance to meet warfighter needs."